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THE PRINGLE AND FROST HERBARIA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

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THE past year has been one of unusual prosperity for the botanical department of the University of Vermont, opening with the acquisition by special bequests of some \$500 worth of valuable books and closing with the transfer to its halls of the library and herbarium of C. C. Frost, and the transfer and endowment of the Pringle herbarium, the fitting up of a suite of rooms for its reception, and the appointment of Mr. C. G. Pringle as its keeper. Since both the Frost and the Pringle herbaria are unique in character and of more than local significance, some account of their condition and the disposition to be made of them may be of interest.

Charles C. Frost, "the shoemaker botanist" of Brattleboro, Vermont, was well known to the cryptogamic botanists of the middle of the last century, in Europe as well as America. Most of his botanical work was done between the years 1845 and 1875. He was, during this time, in correspondence with the leading cryptogamists of this country and evidently exchanged specimens quite extensively. He gave special attention to various groups of the lower plants, at different times, but his best work was upon the fleshy fungi, in which he was closely associated with Mr. Charles. J. Sprague, Professor C. H. Peck, and others. His most important publication is the cryptogamic portion of the Amherst Catalogue issued in 1875. Since his death, in 1880, his library and herbarium have remained in the possession of his family, who deposited them about 1890 in the public library building in the keeping of the Brattleboro Natural History

Society. An excellent account of the herbarium at that date together with a biographical sketch of Mr. Frost by Professor W. R. Dudley is in the *Journal of Mycology* II, 114 (1886). Owing to lack of room this Society never was able fully to arrange the collections other than the lichens, which were worked over by Mr. Starrow Higginson in 1891. The Society at last decided, through the especial interest of two of its members, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davenport and Judge H. H. Wheeler, to recommend the transfer of the entire Frost Herbarium to the University of Vermont. This has been accomplished and the arrangement and cataloguing of the specimens so as to render them accessible to botanists is now under way.

The library includes about one hundred volumes together with a considerable amount of manuscript notes, drawings and correspondence.

Mr. Frost was evidently not a herbarium maker by nature and his collections are not so extensive as his long and active botanical career would lead one to expect. The herbarium includes between 3000 and 5000 specimens of cryptogams so far as can be judged at present, the phanerogamic portion being of minor interest and value.

These specimens are usually not very generous in size and naturally have deteriorated much during the quarter of a century since Mr. Frost ceased to care for them. However, much of historical interest and value attaches to them. This is especially true of the Boleti of which there are a considerable number of type specimens. We hope to be able soon to have the specimens in all the groups so arranged and catalogued as to be easily accessible and will then welcome visits or inquiries from specialists who are interested in them.

No word of introduction is needed regarding Mr. Cyrus G. Pringle or his botanical work. Suffice it to say that, while he is widely known because of his contributions to the herbaria of others, it has been his chief ambition and an important part of his occupation for some thirty years to prepare a herbarium of his own of the best quality and most comprehensive nature possible. It was this desire which first led him into the field explorations in Vermont and later into those more and more extensive collecting expeditions to western America and Mexico which have so greatly enriched most of the large herbaria of the world during the last quarter of a century. His own herbarium has heretofore been kept at his farm home in Charlotte and to its quiet alcoves he has each year returned from his

arduous western and southern journeys there to spend weeks or months, as other duties or season permitted, in its development, care and study. It gradually outgrew his rooms and he decided last winter to accept the invitation, first extended to him some years ago, to transfer it to the University of Vermont and to make that institution his headquarters. This has been done and rooms adequate for the largest probable developments of the next generation are being fitted for its permanent reception. The building in which these rooms are located is a modern brick structure, steam heated, and strictly fire proof. The rooms in preparation will include a main herbarium room about 40×45 feet, a store room and a private office and study each about 20×20 feet. The herbarium room is lighted from above as well as on the sides and is admirably suited for its purposes. Cases are now being installed capable of holding about 100,000 sheets and there is room for at least as many more without a suggestion of crowding.

The Pringle herbarium now includes about 50,000 sheets, giving the University a total collection to-day approximating 70,000. No statement in figures, however, can give an adequate idea of the relative value of the Pringle herbarium. His aim heretofore has been to make it widely representative of the known species of the world and hence much duplication has been avoided. As a result these 50,000 sheets represent pretty completely, for the vascular plants, the known flora of North America, a large majority of the European species and a good showing from the other parts of the world. Specimens have been added by collection and exchange with much painstaking and discrimination—all except the choicest and most representative being rejected. Those who have seen it and who are competent to pass judgment pronounce it the finest large herbarium in existence. Its further development will remain entirely under Mr. Pringle's direction so that its symmetry and perfection will not be marred.

The friends and alumni of the University upon learning of the prospect of Mr. Pringle's coming to Burlington contributed \$10,000 to constitute a permanent endowment fund for the herbarium and associated research work. The University is indebted to the generosity of Dr. W. Seward Webb for \$6000 of this amount.

Botanists generally will be concerned to know the effect of Mr. Pringle's associations with the University of Vermont upon his future field work. No demands will be made upon his time or energies by

the University which will interfere in the least with this. He is left, if anything, more freedom than heretofore to pursue his explorations in Mexico or elsewhere. If in years to come he wishes to turn from that work there is provision that he may further develop herbarium or other botanical work at home, but it is distinctly provided that the work at the University is not to interfere with his freedom in his work as a botanical explorer. He is at present in Mexico and will remain there until some time in the autumn. Upon his return the herbarium will be finally installed in its new quarters.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

AN ALGOLOGIST'S VACATION IN EASTERN MAINE.

F. S. COLLINS.

THE annual meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine, in July, 1902, gave me an excellent excuse for visiting some parts of the coast that were outside the range of my previous explorations; the results of the visits were very satisfactory, and as far as they include new algae or critical matters in regard to already known species, will probably be published a little later; the present article is intended to give a more general account of the algological character of the places visited.

The first point at which collecting was done was Cutler, very near the eastern boundary of the United States. The attractiveness of this place, and the curiously boreal character of the land flora are known to the readers of RHODORA from the interesting account by Dr. Kennedy of his visit in 1901.¹

The place is everyway as attractive as represented, and the northern character of the marine flora is marked. Arctic and subarctic marine floras are characterized by many individuals, often of large size, but of comparatively few species. The flora of the Cutler shore was of this character, but owing to the considerable variety of stations — exposed coast, quiet harbor, and salt marsh — the number

¹ RHODORA, Vol. IV, p. 23.